



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name

Texas Health of HEB

Respondent Name

New Hampshire Insurance Co

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-14-3128-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

MFDR Date Received

June 12, 2014

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "HRA has been hired by Texas Health of HEB to audit their Workers Compensation claims. We have found I this audit they have not paid what we determine is the correct allowable per the new fee schedule that took effect in March of 2008 for this outpatient surgery."

Amount in Dispute: \$2,057.17

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Subject to further review, the carrier asserts that it has paid according to applicable fee guidelines and challenges whether the disputed charges are consistent with applicable fee guidelines."

Response Submitted by: Flahive Ogden & Latson

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

| Date(s) of Service | Disputed Services | Amount In Dispute | Amount Due |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| October 16 – 21, 2013 | Outpatient Hospital Services | \$2,057.17 | \$2,038.47 |

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403 sets out the fee guidelines for outpatient acute care hospital services.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203 sets out the fee guidelines for professional medical services.
4. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - 12 – Submission billing error
 - 16 – Claim/service lacks information or has submission /billing error(s) which is needed for adjudication

Issues

1. What is the applicable rule for determining reimbursement for the disputed services?
2. What is the recommended payment amount for the services in dispute?
3. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. This dispute relates to facility services performed in an outpatient hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, which requires that the reimbursement calculation used for establishing the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the Federal Register with the application of minimal modifications as set forth in the rule. Per §134.403(f)(1), the sum of the Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by 200 percent, unless a facility or surgical implant provider requests separate reimbursement of implantables. Review of the submitted documentation finds that separate reimbursement for implantables was not requested.
2. Under the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), each billed service is assigned an Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) based on the procedure code used, the supporting documentation and the other services that appear on the bill. A payment rate is established for each APC. Depending on the services provided, hospitals may be paid for more than one APC per encounter. Payment for ancillary and supportive items and services, including services that are billed without procedure codes, is packaged into payment for the primary service. A full list of APCs is published quarterly in the OPPS final rules which are publicly available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website. Reimbursement for the disputed services is calculated as follows:
 - Procedure code J7120 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code C1755 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code C1713 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code 36415, date of service October 16, 2013, has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Facility payment for the technical component of this service is calculated according to the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services, §134.203(e)(1). The fee listed for this code in the Medicare Clinical Fee Schedule is \$3.00. 125% of this amount is \$3.75
 - Procedure code 80053, date of service October 16, 2013, has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Facility payment for the technical component of this service is calculated according to the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services, §134.203(e)(1). The fee listed for this code in the Medicare Clinical Fee Schedule is \$14.53. 125% of this amount is \$18.16
 - Procedure code 88304 has a status indicator of X, which denotes ancillary services paid under OPPS with separate APC payment. These services are classified under APC 0433, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$23.43. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$14.06. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9549 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$13.43. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$9.37. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$22.80. The cost of these services does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount for this line is \$22.80. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$45.60.
 - Procedure code 88311 has a status indicator of X, which denotes ancillary services paid under OPPS with separate APC payment. These services are classified under APC 0342, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$12.71. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$7.63. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9549 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$7.29. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$5.08. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$12.37. The cost of these services does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total Medicare facility specific

reimbursement amount for this line is \$12.37. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$24.74.

- Procedure code 23410 has a status indicator of T, which denotes a significant procedure subject to multiple-procedure discounting. The highest paying status T procedure is paid at 100%; all others are paid at 50%. This procedure is paid at 100%. These services are classified under APC 0051, which, per OPSS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$3,437.59. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$2,062.55. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9549 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$1,969.53. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$1,375.04. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$3,344.57. Per Medicare Claims Processing Manual, CMS Publication 100-04, Chapter 4, §10.7.1, if a claim has more than one surgical service line with a status indicator of S or T and any of those lines has a charge of less than \$1.01, then the charges for all S and T lines are summed and the charges are divided across those lines in proportion to their APC payment rate. The new charge amount is used in place of the submitted charge amount in the line-item outlier calculation. This claim has a status indicator S or T line item with a billed charge less than \$1.01; therefore, all S and T line charges are reallocated accordingly. The APC payment for this service of \$3,344.57 divided by the sum of all S and T APC payments of \$4,371.81 gives an APC payment ratio for this line of 0.765031, multiplied by the sum of all S and T line charges of \$7,356.75, yields a new charge amount of \$5,628.14 for the purpose of outlier calculation. Per 42 Code of Federal Regulations §419.43(d) and Medicare Claims Processing Manual, CMS Publication 100-04, Chapter 4, §10.7.1, if the total cost for a service exceeds 1.75 times the OPSS payment and also exceeds the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025, the outlier payment is 50% of the amount by which the cost exceeds 1.75 times the OPSS payment. Per the OPSS Facility-Specific Impacts file, CMS lists the cost-to-charge ratio for this provider as 0.231. This ratio multiplied by the billed charge of \$5,628.14 yields a cost of \$1,300.10. The total cost of all packaged items is allocated proportionately across all separately paid OPSS services based on the percentage of the total APC payment. The APC payment for these services of \$3,344.57 divided by the sum of all APC payments is 75.89%. The sum of all packaged costs is \$2,535.95. The allocated portion of packaged costs is \$1,924.60. This amount added to the service cost yields a total cost of \$3,224.70. The cost of these services exceeds the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025. The amount by which the cost exceeds 1.75 times the OPSS payment is \$0.00. The total Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount for this line is \$3,344.57. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$6,689.14.
- The carrier denied this line as, 16 – “Claim/service lacks information or has submission /billing error(s) which is needed for adjudication.” 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(d), states, “For coding, billing, reporting, and reimbursement of health care covered in this section, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply Medicare payment policies in effect on the date a service is provided with any additions or exceptions specified in this section...” Per Correct Coding Initiatives, procedure code 29822 may not be reported with the procedure code for another service billed on this same claim unless a modifier is used to differentiate between the services provided. Separate payment for the services billed may be justified if a modifier is used appropriately. The requestor billed the disputed service with an appropriate modifier and review of the submitted documentation, “Operative Report” page 5, states, “All debris was aspirated from the shoulder. The instruments were removed, and the right upper extremity is taken out of the shoulder arthroscopy holder and placed in a sterile, impervious stockinette and wrapped with an Ace wrap. A curved incision was made over the acromion. Subcutaneous tissue was incised sharply with a scalpel...” The above mentioned documentation does support a separate and distinct procedure as indicated by modifier. The carrier's denial is not supported as the requestor submitted valid codes and modifiers and medical documentation to support the submitted codes. Separate payment is allowed. Procedure code 29822 has a status indicator of T, which denotes a significant procedure subject to multiple-procedure discounting. The highest paying status T procedure is paid at 100%; all others are paid at 50%. This procedure is paid at 50%. These services are classified under APC 0041, which, per OPSS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$2,111.62. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$1,266.97. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9549 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$1,209.83. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$844.65. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$2,054.48. Per Medicare Claims Processing Manual, CMS Publication 100-04, Chapter 4, §10.7.1, if a claim has more than one surgical service line with a status indicator of S or T and any of those lines has a charge of less than \$1.01, then the charges for all S and T lines are summed and the charges are divided across those lines in proportion to their APC payment rate. The new charge amount is used in place of the submitted charge amount in the line-item outlier calculation. This claim has a status indicator S or T line item with a billed charge less than \$1.01; therefore, all S and T line charges are reallocated accordingly. The APC payment for this service of \$1,027.24 divided by the sum of all S and T APC payments of \$4,371.81 gives an APC payment ratio for this line of 0.234969, multiplied by the sum of all S and T line charges of \$7,356.75, yields a new charge amount of \$1,728.61 for the purpose of outlier calculation. The cost of these services does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$2,025. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount for this line, including multiple-procedure discount, is \$1,027.24. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of

\$2,054.48.

- Procedure code J0171 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J0461 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J1100 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J2250 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J2405 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J3010 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into the reimbursement for other services, including outliers.
3. The total allowable reimbursement for the services in dispute is \$8,835.87. This amount less the amount previously paid by the insurance carrier of \$6,797.40 leaves an amount due to the requestor of \$2,038.47. This amount is recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$2,038.47.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code Sections 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute. The Division hereby **ORDERS** the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$2,038.47, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

Authorized Signature

| | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| <hr/> | <hr/> | September , 2014 |
| Signature | Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer | Date |

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, *37 Texas Register 3833*, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.